Festival of India in USA and France

2800. SHRI RAMKRISHNA MAZUMDER:

SHRI AMARPROSAD CHAKRABORTY:

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN:

HRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that State Governments were consulted in regard to the Festival of India Programmes in France and the United States of America;

(b) whether the West Bengal Government was consulted in this regard, if not, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) the authority which draw up the plans and programme for the said India Festival; and

(d) whether the similar procedure is expected to be followed in future also?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSION AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) Various State Governments and state institutions connected with the performing arts which work in close consultation with the Sangeet Natak Akademi and the Indian Council for Cultural Relations were consulted in the matter of selecting artistes for the Festival of India in France and U.S.A.

(b) The West Bengal Government was informed about Festival of India Programmes and suggestions were invited.

(c) The Advisory Committee for the Festival of India.

(d) Procedures to be followed for subsequent festivals will be determined as and when these are announced.

Leave encashment for Central Government Employees

2801. SHRI ADINANARAYANA REDDY:

SHRIMATI MONIKA DAS:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to introduce leave encashment to the Central Government employees, and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and by when a final decision in the matter is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSION AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) and (b) A Central Government employee who seeks voluntary retirement or is prematurely retired by the Government is entitled to encashment of earned leave at his credit subject to a limit of 180 days and also in respect of all the half pay leave at credit provided the total period for which encashment is allowed does not take him beyond the date of superannuation. The encashment of half pay leave is subject to deduction of pension and pensionary benefits. Central Government servants retiring on attaining the age of superannuation are also entitled to encashment of earned leave subject to a limit of 180 days. The Staff Side of the National Council (JCM) had also raised a demand for encashment of earned leave while in service to Central Government employees. This is still under discussion in the national Council.

Poor maintenance and facilities in the I.T.D.C. Hotels

2802. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA:

SHRI DEBA PRASAD RAY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to lack of maintenance and poor service occupancy rate in the I.T.D.C. hotels is very poor;